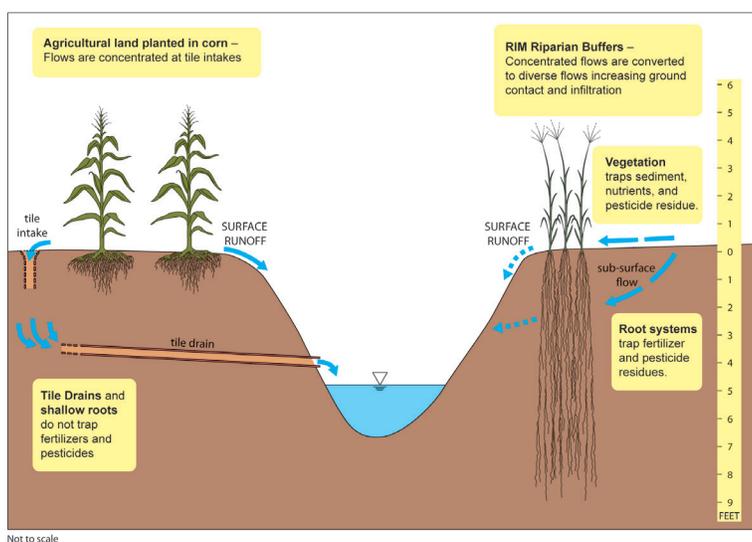


Connecting Clean Water and Outdoor Heritage Funds

The RIM Riparian Buffer Easement Program is the only program funded through both Outdoor Heritage and Clean Water Funds (from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment), as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage and Clean Water Councils. The program targets creating native plant buffers on riparian lands adjacent to public waters through the purchase of permanent conservation easements. This program is part of a strategic approach to prevent pollutants from entering our lakes and streams and to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.



Multiple Benefits

Water Quality

- Protects and improves water quality.
 - Reduces soil erosion.
- Reduces nitrogen and phosphorus loading.

Wildlife Habitat

- Restores wildlife habitat.
- Increases wildlife populations.
- Improves hunting and fishing.

Addressing a Conservation Legacy in Jeopardy

Nearly 823,000 acres (60%) of Minnesota conservation lands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will expire in the next five years—a land area equivalent to Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey counties combined. Unless action is taken to continue protection of these lands using a combination of conservation programs, they will likely be converted back into cropland, eliminating the associated water quality benefits that address critical priorities such as reducing sediment and nutrients, as well as providing a multitude of wildlife benefits.

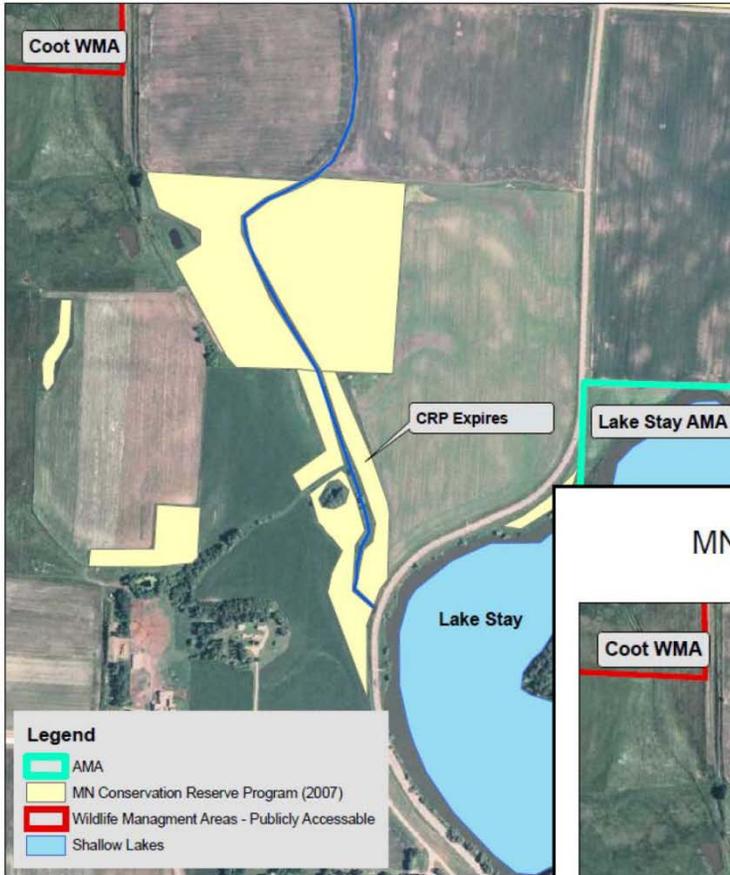
Year	Acres
2012	292,429
2013	130,246
2014	207,841
2015	101,634
2016	90,803
Total:	822,953

Over the last 25 years, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) CRP has been the largest and most significant private lands conservation program in Minnesota's history. An entire generation of Minnesotans have benefitted from improved water quality and enhanced wildlife habitat. These benefits are now in jeopardy.

Enrolling expiring CRP acres into RIM Reserve Riparian Buffer easements will ensure continued protection of the most critically-vulnerable expiring acres.

Buffer Placement Example:

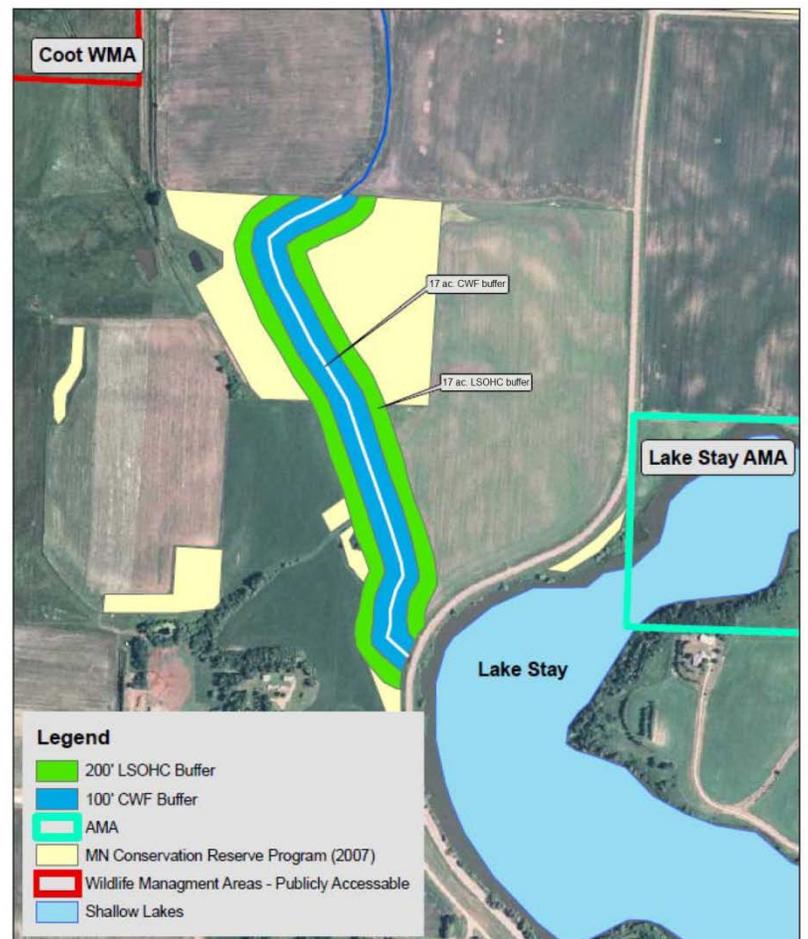
MN Buffers For Wildlife & Water - Before



Example of targeting:

- CRP enrolled acres that will expire
- Close proximity to a Wildlife Management area and an Aquatic Management Area
- Immediately upstream from a shallow lake

MN Buffers For Wildlife & Water - After



Outcome:

400' Habitat and Clean Water buffer will provide permanent protection for a multiple purpose buffer after the CRP practice has expired.